

**Lake Michigan Fisheries Team**  
**January 30-31, 2002 --Sturgeon Bay Service Center**

These notes summarize all LMFT decisions and recommendations, but are not intended as a summary of all discussions.

**Present:** Justine Hasz, Pradeep Hirethota, Steve Hogler, John Kubisiak, Tom Hansen, Gus Ernst, Matt Coffaro, Brad Eggold, Paul Peeters, Terry Lychwick, Mike Toney, Lee Meyers, Bill Horns.

**Next meeting:** March 5, 2002, in Sheboygan.

**Zone 3 whitefish trap net season.**

Background (from agenda). At our last meeting we developed an outline for a rule proposal that would 1) make the trap net season in Zone 3 the same as in Zone 2, 2) require adequate marking of all trap and gill nets, and 3) prohibit suspended trap nets or suspended gill nets near the surface.

Action. The LMFT did not ratify the earlier proposal. Instead a sub-committee consisting of Brad Eggold, Steve Hogler, and Paul Peeters will outline a rule proposal that will allow some summer trap netting in Zone 3, but may include limitations on fishing areas, depths, number of nets, and/or other factors. That rule will also be the vehicle for adoption of net formal net marking requirements.

**FH-34-01, the rule modifying the winter 60-fathom rule to create a winter-spring 45-fathom rule.**

Background (from agenda). Public hearings were held in Kewaunee and Milwaukee on January 16. The rule will go back to the NRB in March for adoption, but can be modified within limits. One specific modification that was proposed by sport fishers in Milwaukee was to insert a sunset clause. Sport fishers there questioned our analysis on two points: 1) Is it valid to extrapolate data from past years, given changes in the lake? 2) Will commercial fishers change fishing practices, and increase effort (more fishers, more nights, or more net) during the winter period?

Action. The LMFT recommends adoption of the rule, with a 5-year sunset clause added.

**Skamania.**

Background (from agenda). John Kubisiak has laid out the issues in an e-mail attachment dated 1/23/02, which all LMFT members should have received.

Action. The LMFT recommends obtaining milt, but not eggs, from Indiana this winter, provided that tests for IPN remain negative. The team also recognizes unresolved technical issues related to a) segregation of eggs fertilized with the imported milt and b) mating protocol. Those issues will be addressed by a sub-committee consisting of Sue Marcquenski, Randy Link, Al Kaaas, Steve Hogler, and John Kubisiak.

**Lake Michigan Integrated Fisheries Management Plan.**

Background (from agenda). Please review the draft outline dated November 24, 2001.

Action. The team spent considerable time fleshing-out the draft agenda. Individuals took specific writing assignments. February 25 was set as the deadline for completion of writing assignments and e-mailing to Bill Horns, who will compile them for review by the team on March 5.

### **Sampling issues related to assessment trawling with the Perca.**

Background (from agenda). Issues were raised during or after the January 10 Perca meeting regarding gear, consistency of data, and boat modifications.

Action. a) Mike Toney's will look into having Department staff cut additional scuppers. b) The LMFT recommended referring our complaints with Vinette to the DOJ, as recommended by Department counsel Mike Scott. If Mike Staggs concurs with this recommendation, Mike Toney's and Brad Eggold will work with Mike Scott to compile referral materials.

### **Sale of roe from legally caught salmon and trout.**

Background (from agenda). Presently, the sale and purchase of game fish or parts thereof is prohibited, with the exception of eggs taken from legally caught salmon and trout. Tom Hansen is proposing a regulation change that would remove this exception. The issue is further described in a draft Form 1000-3 that has been circulated via e-mail to all LMFT members.

Action. The LMFT did not endorse the regulation change.

### **Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum.**

Background (from agenda). The LMFF is moving ahead with plans for the Green Bay workshops. We will take a minute to review how that is going.

Action. Bill Horns agreed to clarify as soon as possible exactly what is expected from LMFT members with regard to the workshops.

### **Funding opportunities under the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, the GLFC's Coordination Activities Program, and the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust.**

Background (from agenda). I want to take a few minutes to review the process for receiving, reviewing, and funding projects.

Action. Bill Horns agreed to look into the availability of Coordination Activities Program (CAP) funds for lake-wide acoustic surveys.

### **Distribution of coho from different sources between the two regions.**

Background (from agenda). Sue Marcquenski and Dick Rebicek have raised this issue. It is summarized in an e-mail that has been forwarded to LMFT members.

Action. SER agreed to compose a short issue brief laying out the issue for discussion by the team at a later meeting.